

REMARKS

Claims 1-63 are pending in the application. Claims 1-5, 7-38 and 40-63 stand rejected by the Examiner. Dependent claims 6 and 39 were indicated as allowable. Assignee traverses the rejections of the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1 and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sang'udi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,480,194) and Anwar (U.S. Patent No. 6,750,864). Claim 63 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anwar, Sang'udi, and Thomas (U.S. Patent No. 6,490,719). The rejections are traversed.

Assignee respectfully disagrees with the examiner's positions for rejecting the claims. For example, assignee disagrees with the examiner's position on pages 19 and 20 of the office action that Anwar teaches a decision tree process module that automatically determines the subset of dimension variables as required by claim 1 in combination with its other limitations. Pages 19 and 20 of the office action maintain that this limitation is taught by Anwar as follows:

[(1)] The present invention also provides data manipulation and analysis or mining techniques including at least one of the following techniques: a multidimensional **decision tree generator**; a cross-tab and cross-tab cell ranker (ACTG); a decision tree to cross-tab converter; a technique for identifying interesting nodes in a decision tree; a technique for constructing filters corresponding to the tree path leading to the interesting nodes; and a correlation technique. at col. 3, lines 10-17. [(Emphasis in the original)]

[(2)] Next, ACTG will evaluate all valid combinations **automatically to determine** the best cross-tab construct to present to the user. at col. 26, lines 63-65. [(Emphasis in the original)]

[(3)] In order to extract useful information (**subsets of training data**, statistical indices or the like) from a training set, the DMT has to perform data processing which is related to OLAP tasks. at col. 44, lines 31-34 [(Emphasis in the original)]

[(4)] The user can add dependent variables by grabbing a **variable (dimension or member)** from a list and drag-n-drop the new variable into the cross-tab wherever desire and the cross-tab control will add the dropped in variable to the cross-tab. The user can remove and dependent variable by simply grabbing the variable in a cross-tab and dropping outside the cross-tab. at col. 36, lines 19-23 [(Emphasis in the original)]

Assignee does not dispute that Anwar discloses a decision tree generator (e.g., see excerpt #1 of Anwar). However assignee disagrees that the excerpts disclose a decision tree process module that automatically determines the subset of dimension variables as required by claim 1 in combination with its other limitations. As an illustration, excerpt #2 may be discussing an automatic determination, but it is in the context of what is the best **cross-tab construct** to present to the user, and not to automatically determine in a decision tree a subset of dimension variables as required in claim 1. A cross-tab construct is significantly different from the decision tree subject matter of claim 1. To illustrate this, assignee notes that the Anwar reference itself mentions that “The term ‘cross-tab’ is a 2D view of an n-dimensional matrix.” (See col. 5, lines 36-37 of Anwar) Thus the automatic generation of a cross-tab construct as defined by the Anwar reference involves very different subject matter from claim 1’s subject matter which involves generation of a subset of dimension variables in a decision tree.

Excerpt #3 of Anwar does not disclose any automatic determination, let alone an automatic determination of the subset of dimension variables of claim 1. Rather excerpt

#3 of Anwar is only disclosing that training sets are difficult for OLAP databases and how to extract useful information from a training set.

Excerpt #4 of Anwar also does not disclose any automatic determination, let alone an automatic determination of the subset of dimension variables of claim 1. In fact this excerpt further evidences the manual approach of Anwar by disclosing

[(4)] The **user** can add dependent variables by **grabbing** a variable (dimension or member) from a list and **drag-n-drop** the new variable into the cross-tab wherever desire and the cross-tab control will add the dropped in variable to the cross-tab. The **user** can remove and dependent variable by **simply grabbing** the variable in a cross-tab and **dropping** outside the cross-tab. at col. 36, lines 19-23 [(Emphasis added)]

In excerpt #4, the **user** is performing manual actions, such as **grabbing**, **dropping**, and **drag-n-drop** actions.

As shown in the analysis of the cited excerpts of Anwar, Anwar does not disclose the limitations of claim 1, such as a decision tree process module that automatically determines the subset of dimension variables as required by claim 1 in combination with its other limitations. Because of such differences, Anwar (whether considered alone or in combination with the other cited references) does not render claim 1 obvious and thus claim 1 is allowable and should proceed to issuance.

Claim 34 is directed to a computer-implemented multi-dimension data analysis method. Claim 34 recites in combination with its other limitations that a subset of the dimension variables is automatically determined. Because the cited references (whether viewed alone or in combination) do not teach, disclose or suggest such limitations of claim 34, claim 34 and its dependent claims are allowable.

Claim 63 is directed to a computer-implemented method for multi-dimension data analysis by a non-technical individual. Claim 63 recites in combination with its other limitations that a subset of the dimension variables is automatically determined. Because the cited references (whether viewed alone or in combination) do not teach, disclose or suggest such limitations, claim 63 is allowable.

Allowable Subject Matter

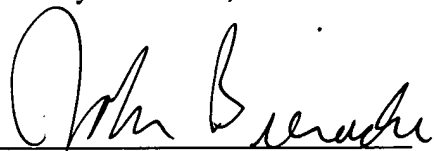
Assignee sincerely thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 6 and 39 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, assignee respectfully submits that the pending claims should be allowed. Therefore, the examiner is respectfully requested to pass this case to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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